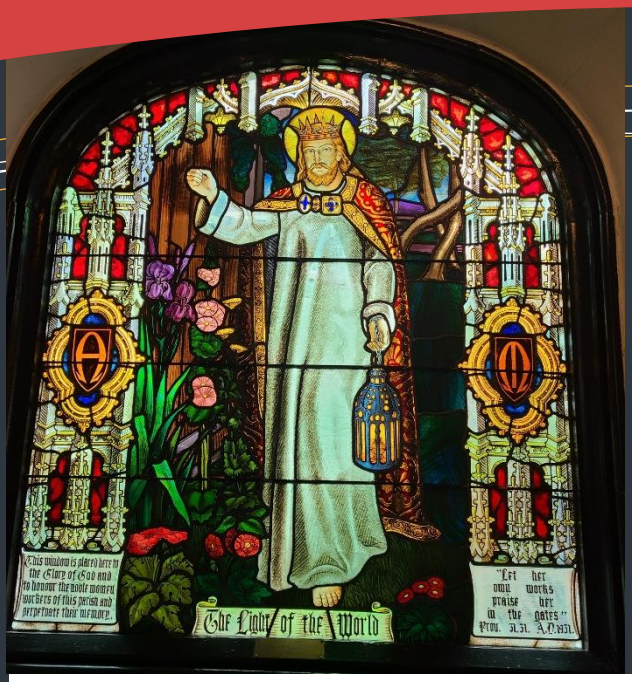
ISSUE
003
September 2024

YOUR REGULAR SOURCE OF EVENTS, HAPPENINGS, AND INFORMATION

ST. JOHN'S TODAY



this issue

Name Us & Parish Teams-Pt. 1 P.1
Parish Hall Update P.2
Green Thumb & Interesting Reads P.3
Upcoming Events P.4

Celebrations

Congratulations, Clare and Violet Churchill, married 60 years, September 12.

Congratulations to Carl and Beryl Young on being awarded as "Garden of the Month" for Smiths Falls.

Happenings

Watch this space for what's happening around the parish.

- **Community Games Night** – Sept. 20th, Games start 6:30.
- **Guest Lecturer** – Sept. 29th Glenn Lockwood – Following 10 a.m. service – in Church.
- **Parish Pot Luck** – Oct. 5th @ 5 p.m. – Parish Hall
- **Parish Council** Meetings – Sept. 18 and Oct. 16.
- **Keenagers** – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, every month at 10 to 11 a.m. – Civitan Hall.
- **Fall Bazaar** – Oct 26th upstairs in the Parish Hall.

If you have any events you would like to have posted here you can drop us a line at: stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com with "Newsletter Coming Events" in the title.

Only Our Readers Can Name Us!

This newsletter is for everyone. It is open to parishioners of St. Johns, residents and visitors to Smiths Falls and surrounding communities. Anyone who is interested may subscribe. It is offered electronically via email, our website, and social media. It is also available in hard copy at St. Johns.

In that light, we also asked you to help us by naming us. Responses were amazing! The top running submissions are:

- St John's Community Newsletter
- St John's Community Weekly/Monthly Newsletter
- The Eagle
- St. John's Eagle
- St. John's Today

Now it is time for you, our readers, to select the winning entry and our new name. To vote, just send us an email at: stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com. Include the words NAME and VOTE in the subject of the email. Selection will be on October 1st. (D.Willis)

Our Teams – Altar Guild & Coffee Crew

Our parish is its people. Together we worship and share the faith and gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. That is the soul of the parish, likewise its body is the congregation. Major organs in this body are our teams, those who get things done. This month we focus in on two teams, the Altar Guild and the Coffee Crew.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a long-standing formal team in the parish. Altar Guild members care for the sacred vessels, the bread and the wine, as well as the fair linens and hangings used for worship in the Sanctuary. They prepare for the Wednesday and Sunday services plus for special services such as Holy week, weddings and funerals.

They clean the sanctuary, chancel and sacristy and care for the linens. They feel honoured to work and prepare for the eucharist in this sacred space.

(continue on Pg. 3 –Teams Formal and Informal)

About Us:

Editorial Staff: Dan Willis, Christina Kerfoot, Brenda Ferguson
Contributors: Kathy Porter, Debbie Lewis, Emily Duberville, as well as, anyone and everyone. Please join us.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SMITHS FALLS | 175 YEARS | 1849-2024

Youth Mission

St John's Sunday school began as a Sunday afternoon program, later moving to before or after the service. However, these children didn't have any involvement in the regular Sunday morning service and often would see no need to attend after their confirmation.

This changed in the 1970's so the Sunday school hour was during the actual church service, allowing time for the children to become familiar with the worship service and even participate.

In the 1940's the rector, Rev. A.T. Carson became aware of the need for the children in the East of town and Atironto area to have Christian education in their own area in addition to those at the Church on George St. A mission was set up in various parishioners' homes on Sunday afternoons. As it grew the Schoolboard made Elgin school available each Sunday. Now the Sunday school met at 9.30am. Hymns, the Lord's Prayer and Apostles creed were recited before going to class.

Special events were also celebrated including a Christmas concert and a end of school picnic.

The average attendance for this eastern arm of the Sunday School was 70-80 children. This mission lasted 30 years with many children coming to know about our Lord Jesus, along with a respect for God, church and home. (C.Kerfoot)

Parish Faces – Council

Terry Dillabough, Member at Large

Dawn Dunlop, Member at Large

Brenda Ferguson, Member at Large

Christina Kerfoot, Member at Large

Last month we featured faces of the corporation. This month the rest of the Parish Council at large.

Concerning the Parish Hall

As you may be aware, we have discovered a potential issue with the Parish Hall. It has recently been discovered that there may be both biological and structural issues in the basement of the hall. This article will bring everyone up to date on the situation.

It began with a Parish Council request to understand the scope of the issue of the paint peeling from the metal ceiling in the basement. It is for this reason that the basement has been off-limits for food service over the last year.

Upon investigation, the team looking at the issue discovered a biological substance growing in the basement. To date the actual nature of this substance has not been verified. But it does have the appearance of black mould; which can have health implications. Erring on the side of caution the decision was made to treat it as such. It was also discovered that the structure of the basement flooring may have been compromised in several places.

The investigating team was asked to determine the extent of the issues in the basement. The result of this investigation was a report to council.

In summary, the report indicated the issues were widespread. The team did not examine beyond the basement but there is no reason to believe the issues are impacting on the upper hall.

"For health safety, the Parish Hall basement is under restricted use."

Council took immediate action, restricting basement activities. Those who use the basement for regular meetings were offered alternative facilities.

Next a local contractor was consulted to understand the options which would be open to us for remediation of the situation. The informal feedback is there are several options each running to more than $1,000,000 and beyond.

Given the significant impact of such costs, council has formed a committee dedicated to researching the options in detail and reporting back to the Parish. (D.Willis)

A History of Youth Ministry at St. John's.

In the 1950's there was an active Junior Auxiliary (JA) which met Monday afternoon after school. A uniform consisting of white blouses, green felt ties and green felt beanies were worn. Badges were won according to knowledge of the church: the various parts and corresponding function, attending Sunday school, crafts. Rallies in Ottawa were attended with other groups from Eastern Ontario.

Since the 1930's AYPA (Anglican Young Peoples Association) was active, being renamed the Youth Group in the 1980's. It has subsequently petered out.

Chi Rho was formed in 1954 with 71 paid members who were too old for the AYPA. This group of young people supported each other as well as raising money for church projects and helping with work bee's when needed. Significant accomplishments include the current sign on Main and Beckwith, the lawn sign in front of the church, and providing transportation for Rideau Regional patients to attend weekly worship. (C.Kerfoot)

Teams Formal and Informal

(from Page 1)

(continued from page 1 – Our Teams)

The team shares the load working in partners, usually every second month for a two-week period.

The Altar Guild are Ruth Anderson, Lois Arkell, Ila Bennett, Jessica Coughlan, Debbie Lewis, Terri Marsden, Kathy Porter, and Deane Sawchuk. Starting this year the team has no formal President. Instead, they share the duties of the role across the entire team.

Contact any team member to join this meaningful ministry.

Coffee Crew

This is an informal team that saw a need and stepped up to do it. The Crew are the ones who prepare and serve the coffee, tea, juices and other refreshments, following the 10 a.m. Sunday service. They also make and provide the delectable treats that often accompany these beverages.

The Crew are Debbie Lewis, Bev Donovan, Sterling Bennett, Kathy Porter, and Dawn Dunlop. They are often joined by others who pitch in particularly during cleanup.

The coffee crew kicks off their efforts each week between 9 and 9:15, following the 8 a.m. service. First up is to get the coffee brewing and get things set up.

Once set there is no activity until the end of the 10 a.m. service, when the treats and the beverages are set out for consumption.

The crew is always thankful of any helping hands.

To join the team contact Debbie (debbie-Lewis@cogeco.ca) or call her at 613-284-6111. (D.Willis)

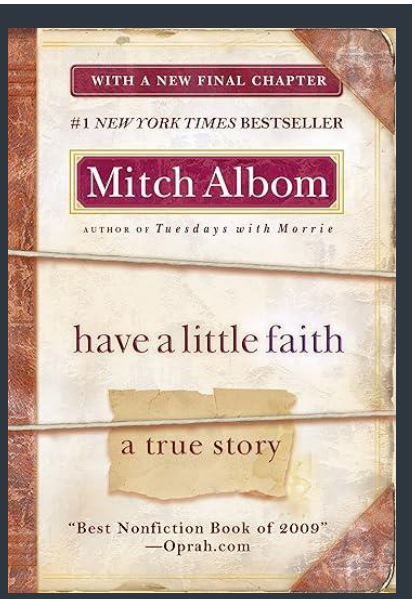
This Month's Interesting Read

Have a Little Faith: A True Story

Authored by Mitch Albom.

A true story of the author's interaction with two men, one an eighty-two year old Jewish rabbi and the other, a Christian pastor who is a reformed drug dealer and convict. Albom takes his reader on a very moving and intriguing journey which encompasses two faiths and two communities over an eight year period.

Available on Amazon.ca and on Indigo.ca
(B.Ferguson)



Green Thumb

Greening the Church

One way that the congregation can help the altar guild would be to provide flowers for Sunday services. Fresh flowers and live greenery are "a reminder of the gift of life God has given to the human community" *(BLS [Built of Living Stones] no. 129)*.

Perhaps you have flowers growing in your garden or you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one.

If this is something you wish to do, please contact any guild member or the Church office.

Worship Life

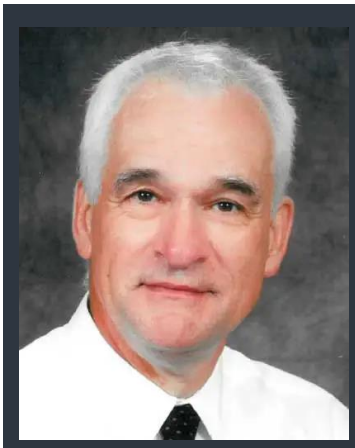
Children's Ministry

Children are most welcome at St. John's, both in and out of services. During our 10 a.m. Sunday service, they are also welcome to join the core of our Children's Ministry – the Sunday School, upstairs in the Parish Hall.

Sunday School resumed on Sunday Sept 9th 2024 for children ages 4 - 12. Simple registration is required for your child to attend.

Please ensure that a program facilitator (Emily, Nancy, or Hope) are aware of your child's arrival in the hall.

The children will be participating in the Fall Harvest Bazaar so get ready to make and craft. They continue to explore stories from the bible, the life and ministry of Jesus and delve into what it means to be a Christian. (E.Duberville)



Guest Speaker

On Sept. 29th, after the 10:00 a.m. service we will be having a wonderful presentation from Glenn Lockwood. Glenn is the archivist for our diocese. He has written the history books about Smiths Falls and Montague plus others.

As part of the 175th year of St. John's Church he will speak about a variety of interesting pieces of information regarding our history. It will be an interesting presentation for sure.
(K.Porter)

Upcoming Events

- **Keenagers.**
  Hosted by the First Baptist Church, this is a fellowship time of prayer, scripture reading, music and guest speakers for individuals 55+. The Smiths Falls Civitan Club. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m.-11am. All are welcome.
  Anyone needing a ride may contact Eric Wills 613-283-7007.

- **Parish Council.**
  Next council meeting is Wednesday, September 18 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. In October, the meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

- **Games Night.**
  Games nights happen regularly each month, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The next games night is a special community event beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 20th running to 8:30 p.m.

- **Guest Speaker.**
  Glenn Lockwood – Diocesan Archivist, in support of 175th Anniversary Celebrations. Sunday, September 29th, immediately following the 10 a.m. service, in the church at St. John's.

- **Pray K7A.**
  On the last Sunday of each month, the local Christian community gathers together for shared fellowship and prayers. The location rotates around each month. This month it is Sunday, Sept. 29th, starting at 7 p.m. at Calvary Bible Church, Isabella St. Smith's Falls.

- **Parish Potluck.**
  Saturday, October 5th, join us for a welcome back Parish Potluck. Please bring your favorite/signature dish. Begins 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

- **Fall Bazaar.**
  A renewed and upgraded tradition, help us celebrate our 175th year as a parish and maybe find that special treasure you have been seeking. October 26th in the Parish Hall.

- **175th Anniversary Events.**
  Stay tuned as the Anniversary Team adds special events and activities throughout the Fall.

- **Future Editions.**
  October 2024 – construction updates, Fall events and more.

Times of Worship:

Sundays:
- 8 a.m. spoken eucharist.
- 10 a.m. sung eucharist.

Wednesdays:
- 10 a.m. weekday eucharist.

Parish Office:
- 9 a.m. to noon, weekdays (613)283-1261

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SMITHS FALLS | 175 YEARS | 1849-2024

St. John The Evangelist,
Anglican Church

2 George St. South,
Smiths Falls, ON, K7A 1X4
613.283.1261 ph
https://www.stjohn-smithsfalls.com/

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SMITHS FALLS | 175 YEARS | 1849-2024